



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

*****Applicants who applied under announcement RSPA-03-29(bm) will need to reapply*****

ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: RSPA-03-58(bm)

POSITION TITLE: General Engineer (Inspector)

SERIES/GRADE: GS-0801-12/13

SALARY RANGE: GS-12: \$62,083-\$80,708

GS-13: \$73,826-\$95,977

Note: salary range reflects the beginning and maximum salary possible for the grade (steps 1-10). Non Federal employees typically enter Federal service at step 1 of the grade.

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: GS-13

[Note: This position has special job requirements. See page 4.]

You must identify the grade level for which you desire consideration. Failure to specify grade level will result in consideration at the highest level for which you qualify.

**POSITION LOCATION: Research and Special Programs Administration
Office of Pipeline Safety
Southwest Region
Houston, TX**

AREA OF CONSIDERATION: Open to All U.S. Citizens
Applications will also be accepted from persons who qualify under non-competitive hiring authorities, such as (but not limited to) 30% or more compensable veterans and persons with disabilities. Veterans eligible for consideration under the Veterans Employment Opportunities Act may also apply.

OPENING DATE: 11-10-03

CLOSING DATE: 12-10-03

NUMBER AND TYPE OF POSITIONS: 2 Full-time Permanent

DOT is an Equal Opportunity Employer

All qualified applicants will be considered regardless of political affiliation, race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, or other non-merit factors. DOT provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify us. Decisions on granting reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Why Work For Us?

Transportation impacts every facet of American life, providing people access to work, school, loved ones, and nature's rich bounty. It is also a major component of national security. The U.S. Department of Transportation is committed to transportation excellence and strives to create the best possible safe, efficient, and integrated air, land, and sea transportation system for America. As a DOT employee, you will become part of a team who work day-to-day to make measurable improvements in our transportation system, the security of our Nation, and the quality of American life.

The Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) is one of nine major agencies of the United States Department of Transportation (DOT). The Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) provides vital services to America's dynamic multi modal transportation system. Its safety and research programs strengthen the nation's industrial competitiveness, especially in a global economy where intermodal transportation is essential. RSPA is responsible for ensuring the safe transportation of hazardous materials including pipelines. RSPA is also responsible for transportation emergency preparedness, safety training and fostering cross-cutting research and development for multimodal transportation.

What Employee Benefits Do We Provide?

The Federal Government offers excellent benefits. You will receive paid annual leave and sick leave. Depending on whether the position you are applying for is permanent or time limited, you will be eligible for retirement, health insurance, life insurance and Long Term Care insurance. A brief summary of the Federal benefits for permanent employees can be found at www.usajobs.opm.gov/EI61.htm.

Summary Of The Essential Job Functions

As an inspector of hazardous liquid and natural gas pipelines within the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) Regional office, incumbent conducts safety program reviews and engineering analyses and evaluations of potential natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline safety regulatory deficiencies. Reviews the design and specifications for natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline systems under construction or repair to assure conformance with regulations, and conducts studies and engineering analyses of pipeline safety issues involved in the development of Federal regulations and industry guidance. Conducts or leads investigations for determining causes of major catastrophic gas/liquid pipeline failures. Conducts risk management analyses designed to improve OPS' safety oversight of a rapidly changing industry and to increase compliance with Federal pipeline safety standards. Recommends corrective actions for the resolution of issues arising from administration of the compliance program.

What Are The Minimum Qualifications For This Position?

Applicants must have one year of specialized experience at or equivalent to the next lower grade level. **Specialized experienced:** Experience that equipped the candidate with the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities (KSA's) to perform the duties of the position, and is typically in or related to the position to be filled. To be creditable, specialized experience must be equivalent to at least the next lower grade level in the normal line of progression for the occupation in the organization. For additional information, please refer to Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Qualification Standards Handbook for General Schedule Positions, which is available for review in most Federal employment offices.

Educational Requirement: (Please note, all applicants must submit a TRANSCRIPT, a copy of their PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING CERTIFICATION/LICENSE, or proof that they have passed the ENGINEERING-IN-TRAINING (EIT) examination):

A. Professional Engineering degree: To be acceptable, the curriculum must: (1) be in a school of engineering with a least one curriculum accredited by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET) as a professional engineering curriculum; or (2) include differential and integral calculus and courses (more advanced than first-year physics and chemistry) in five of the following seven areas of engineering science or physics: (a) statics, dynamics; (b) strength of materials (stress-strain relationships); (c) fluid mechanics, hydraulics; (d) thermodynamics; (e) electrical fields and circuits; (f) nature and properties of materials (relating particle and aggregate structure to properties); and (g) any other comparable area of fundamental engineering science or physics, such as optics, heat transfer, soil mechanics, or electronics.

OR

B. Combination of education and experience - college level education, training, and/or technical experience that furnished (1) a thorough knowledge of the physical and mathematical sciences underlying professional engineering, and (2) a good understanding, both theoretical and practical, of the engineering sciences and techniques and their applications to one of the branches of engineering. The adequacy of such background must be demonstrated by one of the following:

1. Professional Registration.
2. Written Test. Evidence of having successfully passed the Engineer-in-Training (EIT) examination, or the written test required for professional registration, which is administered by the Boards of Engineering Examiners in the various states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam.
3. Specified academic courses. Successful completion of at least 60 semester hours of courses in the physical, mathematical, and engineering sciences and in engineering, which included the courses specified in the basic requirement. The courses must be fully acceptable toward meeting the requirements of a professional engineering curriculum as described in the basic requirements.
4. Related curriculum. Successful completion of a curriculum leading to a Bachelor's degree in engineering technology or in an appropriate professional field, e.g., physics, chemistry, architecture, computer science, mathematics, hydrology, or geology may be accepted in lieu of a

degree in engineering, provided the applicant has at least 1 year of professional engineering experience acquired under professional engineering supervision and guidance.

Other Special Job Requirements

- Selectee must be able to obtain and maintain a “Secret” security clearance.
- Frequent travel (50% of the time) is required.
- Selectee is subject to pre-employment drug testing and random drug testing during employment.
- A financial disclosure statement is required upon appointment.
- Relocation expenses **will not** be paid.

How Will The Qualified Applicants Be Further Evaluated And Rated To Identify The Best Qualified?

If you are basically qualified for this job, you will be further evaluated on the quality and extent of your total accomplishments, experience and education related to the knowledge, skills and abilities listed below. We may also consider your performance appraisal, awards, and relevant training. Your ranking will measure the degree to which your background matches the demands of this position.

What Are The Knowledge, Skills And Abilities Needed For This Job?

- 1. Practical knowledge of current safety practices and operating/maintenance procedures utilized by the hazardous liquid and natural gas pipeline industry.**
- 2. Practical knowledge of Federal and State policies, procedures, and regulations resulting from the pipeline safety law (Title 49, Chapter 601, United States Code).**
- 3. Skill in oral and written communications, especially as they relate to written reports and providing technical advice and assistance to others.**

Before You Go Any Further, Here Are Some Other Things You Need to Know

- United States citizenship is required.
- If you are a male between the ages of 18 and 26 or were born after December 31, 1959, certification is required at the time you are employed that you have registered with the Selective Service for the draft, unless Selective Service has approved a waiver for you.
- Federal applicants must meet time-in-grade requirements by the closing date.

- The "**Area of Consideration**" section shown on the first page indicates who may apply for this position. For example, if the area is "**Open to all US Citizens**", then anyone who is a US Citizen may apply. If the area is, "**Open to All Federal Government Status Employees**", you may apply if you have Civil Service Status or if you can be reinstated. If you can be appointed under a special appointment authority, please let us know on your application the special appointing authority for which you can be considered.
- Veterans who are preference eligibles or who have been separated from the armed forces under honorable conditions after 3 years or more of continuous active service are eligible to apply if the area of consideration is beyond the Department of Transportation.
- You must meet all of the qualifications requirements for this position by the closing date.
- If you are among the best qualified candidates for this position, you will be subject to a determination of your suitability for Federal employment.
- Before being hired you will be required to sign and verify the accuracy of the information in your application if you have not done so using an application form such as the OF 612.

How To Apply For This Position

- 1) You may submit your current SF-171 (Application for Federal Employment), Résumé, or an OF-612 (Optional Application for Federal Employment). You may choose which form to submit provided it contains all required information. Required information is listed in the section labeled "Here's What Your Application Must Contain." This information is especially important when using a resume. **Please be sure to indicate what grade level(s) you are applying for and the vacancy announcement number.**
- 2) For maximum consideration, tell us how you meet the "Knowledge, Skills and Abilities (KSAs)" for this position. The KSAs for this position are located on Page 4. It is **highly recommended** that for each KSA you provide separate (on a sheet of paper) supplemental narratives describing your experience, training, education (this includes awards and training) that are **RELEVANT** to each KSA. Supplemental narratives should be typed and include your name, social security number, and the announcement number at the top of each page. Limit your narrative to no more than one page for each KSA.
- 3) **For Federal applicants, a complete performance appraisal is required.** It must be **current** – meaning it was issued to you within the past year – and it must be **official** – meaning it appraises your performance over a normal rating cycle in your present job and signed by your supervisor. If you are unable to submit your current performance appraisal, please tell us why. You must also submit a copy of your latest SF-50 "Notification of Personnel Action." If you are applying as a former Federal employee (reinstatement eligible), the SF-50 must accompany your application. Failure to submit required documents may result in your not receiving consideration due to an incomplete application.
- 4) To be considered for selection priority under the ***Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP)*** or the ***Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP)*** you must submit appropriate certification that you are eligible. You must also meet the job's minimum

qualifications and rate at least Highly Qualified on the crediting plan for each knowledge, skill and ability requirement.

- 5) If the vacancy announcement's area of consideration is **“Open to All U.S. Citizens”** and you are a current career or career-conditional Federal employee or former Federal employee who has reinstatement eligibility and wish to be considered under both *Merit promotion* and *Competitive staffing procedures*, please submit **two complete applications and indicate that you wish consideration under both processes. (If one application is received, you will be considered under the Merit Promotion procedures only).** Veterans preference does not apply under Merit Promotion procedures. Status applicants must have served one year at the next lower grade level.

Here's What Your Application Must Contain

JOB INFORMATION

- Announcement number and title of the position

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Full name
- Mailing address (with Zip Code)
- Social Security Number
- Country of citizenship (Most Federal jobs require United States citizenship)
- Veterans' preference
(Proof Required – attach DD 214)
- Federal employees & Reinstatement eligibles **(Attach SF-50)**
- Highest Federal civilian grade held

EDUCATION

- High School name, city, state, and date of diploma or GED
- College/University names, city, and state
- Major(s)
- Type and year of degree(s) received
- Transcript for jobs with educational requirements.

WORK EXPERIENCE

(paid and unpaid)

- Job Title
- Duties and accomplishments
- Employer's name and address (indicate if we may contact your current supervisor)
- Supervisor's name and telephone number
- Starting and ending dates (month and year)
- Hours per week
- Salary and/or Grade (GS-or equivalent)

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

- Job-related training courses (title and year)
- Job-related skills (e.g., foreign languages, computer software/hardware, etc.)
- Job-related certificates and licenses (current only)
- Job-related honors, awards, and special accomplishments (e.g., memberships in professional or honor societies, leadership activities, public speaking, performance awards and publications) (give dates)

Privacy Act Requirements: The forms referenced in this announcement are used to determine applicants' qualifications for the position and are authorized under 5 U.S.C. 3302 and 3361.

Where To Send Your Application

U.S. Department of Transportation
Research and Special Programs Administration
Office of Human Resources Management, DMA-40
400 Seventh Street SW, Room 7424
Washington, DC 20590
ATTN: (Reference the announcement number)

- **ALL** applications must be in our office by **5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on the announcement closing date.**
- Applications mailed in a Government envelope will not be accepted.

Questions?

Call **(202) 366-5608** or **TDD (202) 366-7630**. Please reference the announcement number so we can help you more efficiently.

ALTERNATIVE FORMATS: Should you need a copy of this announcement in an alternative format to accommodate a disability, please contact one of the above numbers.

REASONABLE ACCOMODATION: If you are requesting reasonable accommodation in connection with applying for this vacancy, please call (202) 366-5608.